

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk ~ Tel: 01453 799616

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th August 2022 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- 1 Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Farnden, Devcich, Corrie, Holcombe, District Cllr Jones and County Cllr Housden. **Apologies** noted from Cllrs Coombs, Cozens and District Cllr Davies. **Absent** Cllr Bomberg. **Also present** Clerk Marianne Simpson and 14 members of the public.
- 2 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
- 3 Chairman's announcements** None.
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 14th July 2022 were proposed by Cllr Devcich, seconded by Cllr Corrie and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** The Clerk reported that Stagecoach had been contacted regarding adding Eastington Cross to the Great Oldbury to Gloucester route; awaiting a response to this request.
- 6 Changes to the order of business:** None

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to address the council.

A Bath Road resident reported that a group of residents had joined the national 20's Plenty for Us organisation and had set up a 20 is plenty campaign in Eastington. They had submitted a request from GCC for a community speed watch camera ANPR. It does have some costs. He had contacted highways to request repeater signage for the speed limits. They were setting up a Community Speed Watch Group and asked for information on the requirements for moving the mobile VAS and whether it requires 2 people and a step ladder. Clerk to provide the information.

Several residents from Great Oldbury were concerned about planning application S.22/1645/REM - Reserved Matters in Respect of Erection of 216 no. Dwellings, Landscaping, Infrastructure. The plans show a 3-storey block of flats directly on the roadside by the roundabout. The density and height of the flats were a concern, materials were not consistent with existent properties and the path exiting directly onto the roundabout was a safety issue. The site is often waterlogged. Another resident of Great Oldbury said there were not enough bins on Great Oldbury Drive.

A resident of Riverside Park, who was visually impaired, enquired about a dropped kerb. It is very dangerous crossing the road, due to the speed of traffic. Cllr Bullock explained that Highways agreed to install a dropped kerb but unfortunately when they dug up the pavement there were several services under the pavement, so they were unable to install a dropped kerb. Cllr Corrie agreed to raise it again with Highways to see what other options there are. One resident suggested the speed limit on Spring Hill should be reduced from 40mph to 30mph, and there could be a build-out to further slowdown the traffic. Another resident requested zebra crossings are installed in the village.

A Great Oldbury asked about the Community Hall and whether there would be adequate parking if the Community Hall was moved up by the playing fields.

Report from the County Councillor

A written report had been circulated in his absence and this was noted.

Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Jones gave an update on the political changes within council. The new elected leader is Catherine Braun (Green) from Wotton-Under-Edge and the Deputy Leader appointed is Natalie Bennett (Labour) from Nailsworth. A new Monitoring Officer has been appointed, Claire Hughes, on a job share of roughly 50/50 with Cheltenham Borough Council. She will start with Stroud in October, until then the Interim monitoring officer will stay. A motion to resolve the future of the former Ship Inn site on the A419 at Stonehouse, eventually received unanimous support from all sides. The motion asked Council to task Officers to move the site forward as a matter of urgency, in line with the wishes of the survey conducted by Stonehouse Town Council. The site has had a chequered history and has remained undeveloped for well over 20 years since the pub was demolished.

The recommendation of the Independent Review Panel on Members allowances was adopted, with an amendment to bring it in line with the cycle of Elections carried, instead of being one year behind.

A recommendation for SDC to purchase the derelict site between Stroud railway station and the Canal, close to Dr. Newtons Way was approved by a majority, to develop for housing. This despite misgivings about the stability of the site.

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Questions were asked regarding the potential saturation of the Severn Vale by Solar Farms, what proposals could be put in place to minimise this, along with how the quality of the land these applications would sit on is assessed. Also, what proposals are likely to be forthcoming to encourage the use of brownfield sites and industrial buildings rooftops. These questions, along with the answers, can be found on the SDC website, in the Agenda for the Council meeting of 21st July.

7 Consider application for co-option to fill the Casual Vacancies: There has been some interest shown in the casual vacancies, but no formal nominations submitted yet. The Clerk recommended that anyone who is interested apply.

8. Planning

8.1 Council considered planning applications:

Application No.	Address	Details	Decision
S.22/1566/HHOLD	Orchard Cottage Millend Lane Eastington	Demolition of existing timber garage, wood store and garden shed and construction of carport with home office over and garden store at rear.	Support
S.22/1580/HHOLD	Pitchtop Millend Lane Eastington	Single storey extension to existing garage /annex.	No Comment
S.22/1666/HHOLD	35 Victoria Drive Eastington	Erection of single storey rear extension.	No Comment
S.22/1645/REM	Parcel H13 And H14 Land West Of Stonehouse Grove Lane Westend Stonehouse	Reserved Matters in Respect of Erection of 216 no. Dwellings, Landscaping, Infrastructure & Associated Works Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S.14/0810/OUT.	Concerns were raised about the density and height of the properties. The block of flats was too close to the road and there were safety concerns regarding the path exiting directly onto the roundabout. The materials used were varied and not in keeping with existing properties. The parish council supported the comments of concern from residents and agreed to call it in to DCC.
S.22/1621/FUL	Millers Cottage Bath Road Eastington	Retention of lean to and addition of carport onto garage. Change of use of small area of land from agriculture to residential.	Concerns were raised that it was over-development and out of keeping. The proposed extension to the garage plans is large and would extend into the agricultural land.
S.22/1657/VAR	Nastend Cottage Nastend Lane Nastend Stonehouse	Variation of condition 2 (plans) from application S.21/2520/HHOLD - Alterations to the existing carport roof and front facing facade.	Support.
S.22/1606/REM Reserved matters application.	Parcel H21 Land West Of Stonehouse, Grove Lane, Westend, Stonehouse	Local Area Play to serve the approved S.17/2093/DISCON Master Plan for area H21. The S.14/0810/OUT outline application was an environmental impact assessment site, and an environmental statement was submitted.	Support.

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- 8.2 To note planning decisions made by Stroud District Council:
None.

9. Groups / Reports

- 9.1 Cllr Bullock noted that the Bath Road residents are being proactive in setting up a Community Speedwatch group so that police can train people to use speed guns and the data can be passed to the police. The council to support the group.
- 9.2 Cllr Farnden reported on the Churchyard and Burial Ground: The flowers need to be cleared and the wall repairs around the churchyard have been completed.
- 9.3 Cllr Corrie asked for an update on the benches and parish council agreed to purchase 3 two-seater recycled benches. One at the top of Spring Hill, one outside the Village Hall and one by the Co-op. They will be secured using metal brackets fixed to a concrete slab.
- 9.4 An update on the constitution and rules governing the allotments were deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Corrie reported that the recent claims of vegetables being damaged or stolen from the allotments were most likely overstated and just children playing hide and seek.
- 9.5 To receive a report from the Great Oldbury Group. None.
- 9.6 To receive an update from the Great Oldbury Community Hall Group. Cllr Bullock, Farnden and Devcich had attended a meeting with the developer and the architect. The request to re-locate the Community Hall was discussed. The original location, detailed on the master plan was on LC2, next to the pub and near the existing employment areas. It was quite a cramped location and there may have been difficulties with parking when the pub was holding an event. Council considered the new location by the playing pitches. Council resolved to support the re-location. Clerk to notify the developer and Stroud District Council. The design of the Community hall had been discussed and it was agreed that there was no need to include changing rooms as there were separate changing rooms in the locality by the pitches. An outline design was agreed to include a large community hall, a foyer area, a kitchen, a smaller room to be available to rent out for meetings and an office for the manager, plus plenty of storage.
- 9.7 Council considered applying to the GCC £600,000 fund to improve road safety; deadline 31 August. A resident, acting for the Community Speed Watch Group has already applied to County Cllr Housden for a proposed 20s plenty group from Eastington.
- 9.8 A community speed watch group is being set up by residents. It will be trained up by the police to use speed guns and will also be responsible for moving the mobile VAS on Bath Road every 2 weeks.
- 9.9 Cllr Devich updated on the proposed 26 mile Bishops Cleeve to Stroud Cycle Path. She had attended a working group drop-in centre at Dursley. Gloucestershire County Council is to receive £14.1 million from the Department for Transport (DfT). Support for horse-riders and cyclists. Grove Lane could be included.

10. Finance / Procedures

- 10.1 Council approved the July bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.
- 10.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for July 2022
- 10.3 Council received the staff timesheets for July 2022 (confidential and not for circulation)
- 10.4 Council received an update on the WaterPlus bill for the burial ground standtap water meter. WaterPlus asked Severn Trent to obtain a water meter reading in April but the meter reader could not find the meter as they claim the meter is too deep and the area is overgrown and has requested that the customer (parish council) clear the verge so that a reading can be taken. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Cozens to locate the meter. Council agreed not to pay the bill until the meter has been read.
- 10.5 The Clerk noted the Churchyard memorials inspection report 2021 and the Church quinquennial report outlined some memorials requiring attention. Council agreed to renovate one memorial each year if they are considered unsafe. Clerk to pursue with the stone mason.
- 10.6 Council considered the actions required as detailed in the Snakey Park Play area RoSPA report. The Clerk noted that the skate ramp hole in the back of the concrete has been repaired. There are areas of ground erosion, so need to consider renewing the grass matting. The shade structure relies on one post for stability, so this needs regular monitoring. Cllr Bullock has asked a resident volunteer to carry out simple tasks and monitoring tasks and will ask them to check these. The cableway has a cap missing that should be replaced and the basket swing and single point swing should be checked. The willow tunnel requires pruning back and tied in. Clerk to schedule this work for September.
- 10.7 Council approved the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) annual membership of £36.
- 10.8 Council approved the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) annual membership of £78.
- 10.9 Council considered adding the Alkerton Cross monument (value £20,000) to the insurance policy. It can be added to this year's policy and the additional premium will be waived, however at renewal next year it is likely that the policy will increase by around £50. Council resolved to add the Alkerton Cross monument to

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the insurance policy.

10.10 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
28/07/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses June 2022	£1234.64	£0	£1234.64	Admin
11/07/22	Alan Loveridge	Grass-cutting	£1085.00		£1085.00	Burial ground
11/07/22	Dale Haines	Planting up the gateways	£470.00		£470.00	GAG

10.11 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
19/08/22	HMRC	PAYE & NI June 2022	£448.03	£0	£448.03	Admin
15/07/22	Nick Miles Building Contractors Ltd	Work to the St Michael and All Angels churchyard wall.	£3772.00	£754.40	£4526.40	Churchyard
01/08/22	Town and Parish Council Websites	Annual website hosting and maintenance (01/09/2022 to 01/09/2023)	£210.00	£0	£210.00	Website
05/07/22	e.on	Phone box electricity 1/4/21-30/11/21 credit £2.05				
31/07/22	Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd	Empty burial ground bin - July	£11.07	£2.21	£13.28	Burial ground
DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
22/07/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£49.20	£9.84	£59.04	Admin
15/07/22	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/07/22	NEST	Clerk's pension June 2022	£126.39	£0	£126.39	Pensions

10.12 Payments received: None.

11 Council noted correspondence received. Cllr Holcombe asked if the access to the beehives at the back of the pond in the allotments could be cut back. The grasses and shrubs have become overgrown. Clerk to ask the contractor when this can be done if it is in the contract, or if it requires additional clearance and what it will cost.

Notice: Anybody with an item they wish to bring to the attention of the Council, should forward details, in writing, to the Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:53.